



A Message
From
The
Secretary

The start of a new year is always very exciting and KDHE is off to a great start! This year, you will see many changes in the agency, based on your feedback during 2003, including the debut of the newly designed, and on-line, *KDHE News*. I hope you find the information in this newsletter informative and I encourage you to use the publication as a tool to communicate to your colleagues and the public about the many efforts underway in the agency. I appreciate your continued feedback regarding this and other exciting changes coming in 2004.

Legislators came to Topeka earlier this week and the KDHE legislative team, headed by Policy Director, Susan Kang, quickly got to work to begin the process of following hundreds of bills through the session. Many of you will be asked to review these bills and provide impact information and fiscal notes. Your information is critically important to the process and we encourage your continued assistance and involvement in it.

During the legislative session, we will be contacted frequently by legislators, lobbyists, and others seeking information regarding bills and issues with which KDHE is involved or could be involved with through new legislation. If a legislator calls you, please ensure they get the information needed, referring them to others in the agency if their questions go beyond your area, and then immediately contact Susan Kang to inform her of the legislator's needs. We want to be an asset to our lawmakers as they work to improve Kansas.

During the session, media contact with the agency increases as well. If a reporter contacts you, refer them to our Public Information Director, Sharon Watson. She will work with you to determine the best way to meet the reporter's needs. The media are a tremendous benefit to getting our message out to the public, and I encourage you to contact the Public Information Office with ideas or to seek ideas on promoting your division, bureau, program, or district office activities. There are many positive efforts underway in this agency and this year we will make an increased effort to get information to the public about the work you do to make Kansas a better place to live and work.

A review of agency policies is underway throughout KDHE, and as new policies are put into place we will provide them to you via Lotus Notes and post them on the Intranet. Watch for updated human resource policies and media contact/legislative contact policies in the coming days.

I want to thank all of the employee task force participants who worked diligently to provide information regarding Employee Recognition, Health and Wellness, Communication, and Professionalism. Your efforts have and will continue to provide

valuable information and I look forward to thoroughly reviewing all of the reports that have been and are being submitted to me. Your work is very much appreciated and there will be opportunities for others of you to provide such feedback.

Let's continue to work together to make positive changes for KDHE and Kansans!

Be Well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'J' or 'K' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.